



Message from Charles Gibson
Chair of the Miami-Dade
Sister Cities
Bahamas Committee

We are pleased to include in this edition of the Miami-Dade Global Trader a feature on the Sister Cities Cultural and Business Development Mission to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, from June 27th through 30th, 2007. We are delighted to be leading this first ever mission to Miami-Dade County's closest neighboring country, a Sister City since 1996, and an important trading partner.

The main purposes of the mission are to meet with senior Bahamian government officials in order to strengthen our relationship and cultural ties, and to further trade between our two communities by arranging business-to-business meetings. The Commonwealth of the Bahamas is Miami-Dade County's 18th largest trading partner, and our desire is that our business delegates be in a better position to capture new business in the expanding Bahamian economy as a result of their scheduled meetings.

Please check back in the next issue of the Global Trader for a complete report on our mission to Nassau. We are sure that the trip will result in a stronger relationship with our friends across the Gulfstream, and open new opportunities for trade and cultural exchanges.

Commissioner Seijas Welcomes CAMACOL Hemispheric Congress to Miami-Dade



From left to right: Ricardo Santos Neto, Chairman of Fispal; Willie Gort, President of the Hemispheric Congress and ITC board member; Jose Manuel Armenteros, President of the Hemispheric Congress Secretariat; Capt. William Alexander, President of Camacol and ITC board member; Enrique V. Iglesias, Secretary General, Ibero American General Secretariat; Commissioner Natacha Seijas, ITC Chair and Oscar Dominguez, President of Fispal, USA.

The Chair of ITC, Commissioner Natacha Seijas, welcomed to Miami-Dade County delegates from throughout the world to the 28th Annual Hemispheric Congress of the Latin Chamber of Commerce of the U.S.A. (CAMACOL) held at the Miami Beach Convention Center on June 1.

Under the banner of "Technology and Communications in International Commerce", the convention featured cutting edge seminars, workshops, and speakers and delegates from as far as Ukraine and South Africa and as close as the Bahamas. Most Western Hemisphere nations were represented.

Commissioner Seijas proudly noted the role that CAMACOL president William Alexander, an ITC board member, has played in the growth of the annual event. She also recognized other ITC board members present, as well as Mr. Ricardo Santos Neto, president of FISPAL/Brazil, the co-sponsor of the congress and trade show.

In her remarks, Commissioner Seijas emphasized the synergy that the private sector and government cooperation generated in fostering economic development and trade when they work and cooperate closely. "As chair of the ITC, I am very proud to participate in this kind of event where government

and business join forces to find solutions. This meeting is a wonderful example of how the partnership of the public and private sectors serves all."

She welcomed the delegates to Miami-Dade on behalf of Mayor Carlos Alvarez and the Board of County Commissioners. She also gave a special welcome to the speaker that was to follow her at the podium, Enrique Iglesias, General Secretary of the Ibero-American Secretariat and former president of the Inter-American Development Bank.

(Read more about the CAMACOL Congress on page 4).



Emma Tibaldeo

Italy Gives Tibaldeo an Award

Sister Cities Coordinating Council member and Asti, Italy Committee Chair, Ms. Emma Tibaldeo was awarded one of Italy's highest honors - Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella della Solidarieta Italiana (Knight of the

Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity) during the Italian National Day celebration sponsored by the Consul General of Italy and Mrs. Gianfranco Colognato.

(Read more on page 2)



Miami-Dade County's Sister Cities

Asti, Italy

Asuncion, Paraguay

Commonwealth of the
Bahamas

Cayman Islands,
B.W.I.

Iquique, Chile

Kingston, Jamaica

Lamentin, Guadeloupe

Maldonado, Uruguay

Mendoza, Argentina

Monagas, Venezuela

Pereira, Colombia

Petit Goave, Haiti

Pucallpa, Peru

St. Kitts & Nevis Island

San Jose, Costa Rica

Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Santo Domingo,
Dominican Republic

São Paulo, Brazil

Stockholm, Sweden

Tenerife, Canary
Islands, Spain

Taipei, Taiwan

Turks & Caicos
Islands

Veracruz, Mexico

Sister Cities Mission to the Bahamas Will Meet Government, Business and Cultural Leaders

On June 27th a Miami-Dade Sister Cities mission will make history by undertaking its first mission to the Bahamas, a top trading partner of Miami-Dade County. The Bahamas and Miami-Dade are not only bound by a \$1.2 billion a year trading relationship, they both share important historical and human links.

Said ITC Chair Natacha Seijas of the upcoming mission: "The purpose of the mission is to celebrate the close cultural and economic ties enjoyed between residents of Miami-Dade County and the Bahamas, and to discover new ways that the two neighbors work together to strengthen the friendship borne of proximity and familiarity."

Leading the mission will be Commissioner Dennis C. Moss, who will be joined by staff from several County agencies including Miami International Airport and the Port of Miami, as well as a group of businesses that want to develop new opportunities in the Bahamas.

The mission will travel to Nassau on the 27th and return to Miami-Dade on the 30th. The agenda was

developed in close partnership with the Bahamian Consulate General in Miami and the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce in Nassau. General elections were held in the country in early May, and the Miami-Dade delegation will be among the first foreign delegations visiting the new government.

In addition to meeting with government officials, the delegation will be dealing with the educational and cultural aspects of the Sister Cities program and business participants will have scheduled one-to-one meeting with Bahamian companies who have been pre-screened to match their interests.

"I would like to thank fellow Committee members Sandrell Rivers, Julie Edwards, Laurice Hunter-Scott, Corinna Moebius and Wayman Bannerman for working to put together a mission agenda that includes trade, government and cultural components. We are also indebted to Bahamian Consul General Alma Adams for her tireless work and efforts to make sure this mission is a robust success," said Charles Gibson, Chair of the Sister Cities Bahamas Committee.

Coordinating Council Member Emma Tibaldeo is Decorated by Italy with one of Highest Awards

(Continued from page 1)



L'Ordine della Stella della Solidarietà Italiana was originally established in 1947 to recognize the achievements of Italians and foreigners who had played a distinguished role in the reconstruction of Italy after World War II. In more recent times, the honor has been bestowed on individuals who have helped to promote Italy abroad.

To celebrate the twenty one years of a vibrant Sister Cities relationship between Miami Dade County and the Province of Asti, Italy, Miami Dade County Commissioner and Chair of ITC, Natacha Seijas led a nineteen member delegation to Asti in 2006. As Chairperson of the Asti, Italy Committee, Ms. Tibaldeo played a key role in the development of the mission. The goodwill mission to Asti, Italy served to further cement the very strong bonds of friendship that exist between our two communities, and it celebrated twenty one years of uninterrupted friendship and cooperation.

The mission, which consisted of representatives of government, education, and the private sector from Miami-Dade County expanded its understanding of the culture and way of life in Asti; and took full advantage of the opportunity to meet with key representatives of government, education, and industry to further project Miami-Dade County as an international community with cultural and economic ties not only to Italy but to other cities throughout the world. The friendships which in some cases were established, and in which in some other cases were further strengthened, will last a lifetime and will serve to promote better understanding and further cultural exchanges between the people of Asti and the people of Miami-Dade.

"I am very proud that Emma's unwavering efforts have been recognized," said ITC Chair Natacha Seijas. "As a Coordinating Council member, Emma has made significant contributions and collaborated extensively in maintaining and strengthening the traditional friendship and goodwill bonds existing between the people of Miami-Dade County and Italy."

Global Economy Drives Miami-Dade's 2007 Trade Numbers

This article is excerpted from the recently published 2007 issue of Miami Trade Numbers in WorldCity magazine.

By KEN ROBERTS

Seven years ago, WorldCity first produced Miami Trade Numbers, a look at how the airports and seaports from Palm Beach through the Florida Keys traded with the world beyond our shores.

In looking back at that first issue in 2000, it is apparent that quite a bit has changed in the trade landscape.

Starting at the top, No. 1 Brazil was heading toward \$10 billion in annual trade with South Florida, fresh off 20 percent growth. But then came a slump lasting several years. Its 2000 total trade was a hair under \$9 billion. In 2006, the total was \$8.9 billion, down 1.3 percent since 2000.

Brazil's story is, to some extent, a story of the frequent fluctuations in the regional jet business, which affects Embraer's operations here in South Florida as well as in Brazil. The next three are a little different. They are clear examples of the impact global events can have on local communities.

Venezuela, No.2 for the second year in a row, may have been a stick in the eye to the Bush Administration of late, but it has been a boon for South Florida's logistics, warehouse and shipping community. It was No. 6 back in 2000, just as the price of oil was beginning its ascend from the low \$20s. South Florida trade has increased 75 percent, from \$2.8 billion to just under \$5 billion, much of that in exports to a nation with cash to spend.

Then there's China. It has moved up to No. 5 in overall rank from No. 12 and become the Miami Customs' Districts top importer. In 2000, it surpassed \$1 billion for the first time, making it one of South Florida's 15 members of the Billion Dollar Club. Its total trade increase has been more meteoric, up 230 percent, to \$2.9 billion. WorldCity has just produced its first China Trade Numbers Special Report this year, as more and more eyes have settled on the Asian powerhouse, from Los Angeles to Miami to Washington, D.C.

Argentina was No.9 in 2000, having fallen two slots that year, although its total trade had risen slightly to \$2.1 billion. But the worst was yet to come, as the Mercosur nation was whiplashed by the impact of a financial crisis that began in Thailand, spread to Russia and found its way to Argentina, proving beyond a doubt that the economies of the world were increasingly interconnected. Its total trade with South Florida for 2006 was \$1.7 billion, down 21 percent from the 2000 total numbers.

There are other examples, of course. As the price of an ounce of gold has skyrocketed along with oil, Peru has benefited. While its gold has moved through the Customs district that includes Denver, the impact on Miami has been with surging exports to the Andean nation, which increased 38 percent last

year and 83 percent since 2003. In 2006, South Florida's exports to Peru surpassed \$1 billion for the first time. The developing world's voracious appetite for copper is having a similar impact on Chile.

The days, months and years ahead will certainly bring more changes, and we look forward to chronicling and analyzing them in the pages of Miami Trade Numbers.

Ken Roberts is the President and CEO of WorldCity, a media company focused on global trade. His email is: kroberts@worldcityweb.com.

2006 RANK	2005 RANK	COUNTRY	TOTAL TRADE 2006	TOTAL TRADE 2005	CHANGE	MIAMI EXPORTS 2006
		World Total	\$72,078,088,844	\$65,898,071,729	9.4%	\$39,615,910,625
1	1	Brazil	\$8,883,534,922	\$8,977,989,027	-1.1%	\$6,634,154,637
2	2	Venezuela	\$4,968,215,848	\$4,305,853,432	15.4%	\$3,912,169,999
3	3	Dominican Rep.	\$4,567,093,828	\$4,135,306,775	10.4%	\$2,415,756,978
4	4	Colombia	\$4,387,952,534	\$3,942,685,946	11.3%	\$2,593,126,766
5	7	China	\$3,883,094,254	\$3,356,134,972	15.7%	\$295,295,456
6	5	Costa Rica	\$3,874,907,533	\$3,525,906,765	9.9%	\$2,508,748,362
7	6	Honduras	\$3,507,609,224	\$3,464,107,279	1.3%	\$1,670,914,148
8	9	Chile	\$2,431,286,174	\$2,023,604,722	20.1%	\$1,635,616,050
9	8	Guatemala	\$2,242,513,462	\$2,306,191,460	-2.8%	\$1,211,469,099
10	12	United Kingdom	\$1,901,700,915	\$1,460,313,020	30.2%	\$503,207,819
11	10	El Salvador	\$1,829,105,033	\$1,869,362,955	-2.2%	\$998,572,180
12	11	Argentina	\$1,696,837,689	\$1,512,614,729	12.2%	\$1,505,362,232
13	16	Peru	\$1,629,939,566	\$1,296,374,307	25.7%	\$1,173,030,016
14	13	France	\$1,545,598,280	\$1,385,331,381	11.6%	\$268,665,924
15	14	Mexico	\$1,491,366,579	\$1,330,877,803	12.1%	\$886,221,450
16	15	Italy	\$1,367,059,556	\$1,315,073,595	4.0%	\$216,708,624
17	17	Ecuador	\$1,328,397,401	\$1,254,035,698	5.9%	\$890,304,607
18	18	Bahamas	\$1,260,764,174	\$1,179,263,703	6.9%	\$1,092,005,616
19	20	Germany	\$1,124,771,126	\$1,022,155,282	10.0%	\$403,123,463
20	19	Netherlands	\$1,082,451,153	\$1,172,598,282	-7.7%	\$201,681,265
21	21	Panama	\$1,046,482,453	\$906,799,715	15.4%	\$872,379,605
22	22	Japan	\$969,579,071	\$857,910,302	13.0%	\$219,665,433
23	23	Haiti	\$947,720,600	\$814,869,178	16.3%	\$485,403,013
24	26	Nicaragua	\$840,569,282	\$708,167,383	18.7%	\$349,811,171
25	24	Paraguay	\$836,406,273	\$788,976,639	6.0%	\$830,499,570



From left to right: Tony Ojeda, ITC Executive Director; Capt. William Alexander, CAMACOL President and ITC board member; Greg McCarty, Wal-Mart executive; Gabriel Pascual, CAMACOL member.



From left to right: Ray Flores, AT & T area director and ITC board member; Gareth Rees, South African Economic Counselor, Washington, D.C. embassy; Dr. Denis Rod, ITC board member and also a member of the ITC Asian Trade Initiatives Ad-Hoc Committee.



At an exchange of agreements between the Port of Miami and the Port of Odessa, from left to right: Willie Gort, President of the Hemispheric Congress and ITC board member; Juan Kuryla, Assistant Port of Miami Director; Miami-Dade Commissioner Javier D. Souto; representing the Port of Odessa, Kateryna Fomenko, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ukraine; Ms. Fomenko's translator; Capt. William Alexander, CAMACOL President and ITC board member.

South Africa Diplomat Comes to CAMACOL Hemispheric Congress

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Iglesias spoke about the rapid economic growth of the economies of nations in South and Central America and how that growth has propelled many Latin Americans to the middle class, but noted that the remaining disparity in income and access to education for many is a structural imbalance that is the source of political instability in some countries.

One early result of the ITC's recent mission to South Africa was evident at the Hemispheric Congress. Gareth Rees, the Economic Counselor of the Embassy of South Africa in Washington, D.C. said he was attending his first Hemispheric Congress in Miami-Dade County as a result of the new awareness raised by the mission.

"The mission that (ITC) took to South Africa has impacted the way that we look at the Western Hemisphere in terms of trade," he said in an interview with The Miami-Dade Global Trader. "There has been considerable discussion in my government of the potential for trade beyond North America. There is no doubt that it has raised the consciousness of South Africa in a significant way."

Rees attended most sessions of the three-day Congress as well as toured the exposition hall where the Fispal Latino Trade Show was being held simultaneously. Rees said, he would consider participating in next year's Fispal Latino.

Elsewhere in this year's Congress, which was themed, "Technology and Communications in International Trade", sessions were held that dealt with the impact that cutting edge innovations are having on trade.

At a session on the impact of biotechnology in globalization, the president of the Dominican Chamber of Commerce said that the impact of biotechnology on the pharmaceutical and agricultural industries has had a revolutionary impact on developing economies, providing opportunities previously unavailable to smaller countries.

"Our countries in Latin America are now faced with options for development that open new doors," he said. "But we must invest in education, infrastructure and development so that we can keep up in this area."

Ethanol Will Play Important Role in Global Trade

A star-studded panel of experts and top-level officials from throughout the Western Hemisphere tackled the cutting edge issue of ethanol at the recent Hemispheric Chambers' Congress in Miami Beach. The bottom line after an afternoon full of policy, finance and technological expositions: the next few years will see such an explosion in the development of the innovative biofuel that the Americas and the world will be changed by it.

Some of the highlights of the discussion by the panel:

- Ivo Luiz dos Santos, Petrobras: "We are a \$76 billion-a-year global company with a presence in five continents... presently we are looking at substantial expansion in the Japanese market, so we are getting ready to produce huge quantities for export to Japan. While we have not previously harvested sugar cane, but simply have been involved in the refinery aspect of biofuel, this is about to change."
- Jorge Pinon, formerly with Amoco and Shell and BP, now with the University of Miami: "The U.S. now consumes 21 million barrels of oil a day, which is one quarter of the world production; in 1986 Alaska produced two million barrels a day and that is down to 800,000 barrels; 50 per cent of the U.S. internal demand is imported; our refining capacity is down to 17 million barrels a day; our strategic oil reserve would be exhausted in 56 days. All these figures underline the importance of ethanol for the U. S."
- Jorge Arrizurieta, Akerman Senterfitt: "We believe that the 54 cent ethanol import tax will be eventually lifted. That will change the rules of the game. This administration is investing in sugar and ethanol plants in Brazil, and that is a clear indication of where we are headed."
- Joao de Sampaio Filho, Secretary of Agriculture, Brazil: "We are undertaking a gigantic agricultural expansion for sugar cane devoted to ethanol production. That is federal policy. It is important to note that since 2003 the country began to sell the mixed fuel cars that accept both gasoline and ethanol. Eventually all cars will be flex vehicles, and one other advantage is that ethanol pollutes less, so it is a green fuel in more ways."
- Hernan Martinez Torres, Minister of Energy of Colombia: "We presently have 44 million acres of pasture lands that are capable of growing sugar cane. They are now underutilized for the feed of 22 million heads of cattle. Short term we are going to develop three million acres for sugar cane or palm oil, both ethanol producers. In Colombia we do not have seasons, thus we are capable of growing sugar all year around with full sunlight. Our yields are high, about 120 tons per acre."

Chinese Congressman Visits ITC on a Commercial Mission

On May 14 ITC welcomed a delegation from the People's Republic of China lead by Congressman Lin Zhaoshu of the National People's Congress. The delegation consisting of high level government officials was on a commercial exploratory mission to Miami-Dade and Latin America. ITC Executive Director Tony Ojeda made a presentation to Congressman Zhaoshu about Miami-Dade's position as a global gateway and about the department; and the Office of the Chair provided a tour of the Stephen P. Clark Center for the delegation. Accompanying the delegation on their visit were Dr. Dennis Rod, ITC board member and also a member of the ITC Asian Trade Initiatives Ad-Hoc Committee, and Mr. Joe Chi, Executive Director of China Latin American Trade Center.



From left to right: Tony Ojeda, ITC Executive Director; Dr. Denis Rod, ITC board member; Chinese translator; People's Republic of China Congressman Lin Zhaoshu of the National People's Congress.

ITC Hosts officials from U.S. State Department and Turkmenistan

As part of the US Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program, three dignitaries from the government of Turkmenistan visited the ITC offices recently. Ms. Aknura Toyjanova, Chief of Legal Services Department, the Central Bank of Turkmenistan; Ms. Maral Hudaykulyeva, Chief Legal Advisor, Turkmenistan Bank; and Mr. Begli Durdymamedov, Chief Expert, Department of Consolidated Economic Analysis and Development of Regions, Ministry of Economy and Finance came to Miami on the final leg of a three week visit to the US that included meetings with government and private sector officials in New York City, Washington DC, and Chicago. The delegation included an overview of the department's activities, and the role the ITC plays in promoting Miami-Dade County as a global gateway community. The group was particularly interested in hearing the role that government can play in enhancing trade relations between partners on different continents.



From left to right, Adam Peters, ITC Senior Sister Cities Coordinator; Ms. Aknura Toyjanova, Chief of Legal Services Department, the Central Bank of Turkmenistan; Ms. Maral Hudaykulyeva, Chief Legal Advisor, Turkmenistan Bank; and Mr. Begli Durdymamedov, Chief Expert, Department of Consolidated Economic Analysis and Development of Regions, Ministry of Economy and Finance.



Carlos Alvarez
Mayor

Board of County Commissioners:

Bruno Barreiro
Chairman

Barbara J. Jordan
Vice Chairwoman

Barbara J. Jordan
District 1

Dorrin D. Rolle
District 2

Audrey M. Edmonson
District 3

Sally A. Heyman
District 4

Bruno A. Barreiro
District 5

Rebeca Sosa
District 6

Carlos A. Gimenez
District 7

Katy Sorenson
District 8

Dennis C. Moss
District 9

Sen. Javier D. Souto
District 10

Joe A. Martinez
District 11

José "Pepe" Diaz
District 12

Natacha Seijas
District 13

Harvey Ruvin
Clerk of Courts

George M. Burgess
County Manager

Murray A. Greenberg
County Attorney

Mayor Alvarez, Commissioner Sosa, Welcome Pakistani Ambassador to Miami-Dade



Mayor Carlos Alvarez and Commissioner Rebeca Sosa greet His Excellency, Ambassador Mahmud Ali Durrani, the Pakistani ambassador to the United States.

The Pakistani Ambassador to the United States, Mahmud Ali Durrani, visited Miami-Dade County headquarters in May. After initially stopping at the ITC offices, he was taken on a tour of the building, which began with a meeting with Mayor Carlos Alvarez and Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and was

followed by a visit of the chamber of the Board of County Commissioners while the Commission was in session. Ambassador Ali Durrani was in Miami-Dade on a courtesy visit. Pakistan is one Miami-Dade's top 100 trade partners, with almost \$70 million in total trade during 2006.

Events

June 25 to June 26: TRADE-USA, Incoming Trade Mission from the Caribbean Region to Florida.

Delegation of 21 Caribbean Companies Seeking to meet with Manufacturers and Distributors lead by the Commercial Service of the U.S. Embassy in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica.

DoubleTree Hotel Coconut Grove
2649 South Bayshore Drive, Miami, FL 33133

For registration:

Florida Foreign Trade Association
305-471-0737

Toll Free # 1-800-823-5714

July 11: ITC Board of Directors meeting

5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

111 NW 1st Street 18th Floor
Miami, FL 33128

Contact: Ricardo Bran 305-375-1254

July 12: European and Middle Eastern Committee

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

111 NW 1st Street
Suite 2560, Miami, FL 33128

Contact: Maria Dreyful-Ulvert
305-375-1254

June 27: Council of the Americas, Trade in the Americas:

What does the future hold? They will examine the outlook for Trade Promotion Authority and consider prospects for pending and future trade agreements. From 8:30 am to 11:00 a.m.

2255 Rayburn House Office Building, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

Contact: Stephanie Akers

Main: 202-659-8989

Fax: 202-659-7755

www.counciloftheamericas.org

Please note that dates are subject to change. To announce upcoming events please call 305-375-4750.



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